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Actors' Church Alliance
of America.

NATIONAL
CONSTITUTION
AND
LAWS.

AS ADOPTED JUNE 1, 1905,
WITH AMENDMENTS, ADOPTED PRIOR TO AND IN-
CLUDING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF 1909.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.

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ACTORS' CHURCH ALLIANCE
OF AMERICA.

Constitution and Laws.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

Section 1. This organization shall be known
as THE ACTORS' CHURCH ALLIANCE OF AMERICA.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

Section 1. The objects of The Actors' Church Alliance of America are to promote the best interests of the Stage and the Church, in seeking to produce on the part of each, a just appreciation of the opportunities and responsibilities of the other; and laboring to the end that the Stage, the Church, and the general public may be united in a mutual effort for the betterment of all.

Section 2. Among the aims of the Alliance shall be that of endeavoring so to influence public sentiment in favor of all honorable and lawful

measures, that those upon the Stage may enjoy Sunday as a day of rest.

ARTICLE III.

QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Section 1. All who earn their livelihood upon the Stage, members of any Church, and persons interested in promoting the work of the Alliance, shall be eligible for membership, provided their applications for membership meet the requirements of the Chapter to which they apply.

ARTICLE IV.

GOVERNMENT.

Section 1. The government of the Alliance shall be vested in a General Convention consisting of Delegates from the various Chapters, elected in accordance with Article 4, Section 7. In addition thereto, the five Executive Officers named in Article 4, Section 3, shall also be members of the General Convention. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. In the interval between meetings of the General Convention, the government of the Alliance shall devolve upon a National Council, the members of which shall be elected at the preceding Annual Meeting of the General Convention, in accordance with Article 6, Section 1, with the

exception of Chapter Representatives designated in Article 4, Section 7.

Section 3. The officers of the General Convention, who, by virtue of their office, will also be members of and act in a similar capacity in the National Council, shall be as follows : President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer.

Section 4. In addition thereto, the National Council shall consist of twenty members,—ten each from the Church and the Stage, elected in accordance with Article 6, Section 1. Also, two Chapter Representatives, one each from the Church and the Stage, elected at the Annual Meeting of each Chapter. They shall execute the laws of the organization as established by the General Convention, and conduct the business in the interval between the Annual Meetings of the General Convention. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The officers and members of the National Council shall hold office for one year, or until their successors are elected, as hereinafter provided.

Section 6. No person shall be eligible for the offices of President, 1st or 2nd Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, as set forth in Article 4,

Section 3, who has not been a member of the National Council or an Officer of a Chapter.

Section 7. Each Chapter shall, at its Annual Meeting, elect one delegate to the General Convention for every twenty-five members in good standing on that date, or a majority fraction thereof, as per Article 4, Section 1. There shall also be elected at said Annual Meeting, two Chapter Representatives, one each from the Church and the Stage, as members of the National Council, in accordance with Article 4, Section 4. The names of such Delegates and Representatives must be reported to the Secretary of the National Council not later than the 10th day thereafter.

Section 8. Delegates to the General Convention shall be furnished with certificates signed by the President, and attested by the Secretary, of the Chapter they represent.

Section 9. The fiscal year of the Alliance shall date from May 1st.

ARTICLE V.

MEETINGS.

Section 1. The General Convention shall assemble for its Annual Meeting on the fourth Thursday of May of each year, except that when Ascension Day shall fall upon that date the Con-

vention shall be called for the Tuesday following. The business sessions shall be from 9.30 A. M. until 12 noon, and from 2.30 P. M. until 5.30 P. M. on that day, and also on such succeeding days as the General Convention may decide are necessary for the completion of its work.

Section 2. The Order of Business at the General Convention, unless otherwise changed by a three-fourths vote of the Delegates present, shall be :—

1. Calling meeting to order.
2. Opening Prayer.
3. Report of Committee on Credentials.
4. Reading minutes of the preceding General Convention.
5. Report of President.
6. Report of Secretary, including reports of Standing Committees.
7. Report of Treasurer.
8. Reports from Chapters on their condition and prospects.
9. Unfinished Business.
10. New Business.
11. Reports of Special Committees.
12. Nomination and election of officers, and their induction into office.

Section 3. On the evening of one of the days of the Session of the General Convention, a Public meeting shall be held, in the interest of the Alliance.

Section 4. At each Annual Meeting of the General Convention, the place of the next Annual Meeting shall be designated, but the General Convention shall not be held twice in immediate succession at any place wherein a Chapter is located, except by a two-thirds vote of all the Delegates present at the Convention making said selection.

Section 5. Special Meetings of the General Convention shall be held at the written request of thirty-five members of the Alliance; such request shall specifically set forth the purposes for which said meeting is called, and no other business shall be transacted at such Special Meeting, except that specified in said call.

Section 6. The Nominating Committee of the National Council shall consist of five members of said Council elected by ballot at the Council Meeting nearest to March 1st. The Committee shall then, in its best judgment, prepare a ticket which shall be posted by April 20th on the Bulletin at Headquarters, and a copy be sent to each Chapter and the same printed for presentation at the time of election. But nothing in this shall be considered as excluding nominations made from the floor at said election.

Section 7. A Convention Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of the Chapter

with which the Convention is to be held, and five members of the National Council elected by ballot at the Regular Meeting held nearest to April 1, shall have charge of all arrangements not otherwise specifically provided for in this Constitution, for each Annual Convention, and the Committee Chairman shall be elected by the Committee.

ARTICLE VI.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Section 1. At the Annual Meeting of the General Convention in May, 1905, ten members of the Alliance, five each from the Church and the Stage, shall be elected as Members of the National Council, to hold office for one year; and in like manner, ten members shall be elected to hold office for two years; and at every Annual Meeting thereafter of the General Convention, five each from the Church and the Stage, shall be elected for two years' service, to fill the places of those whose terms of office will each year expire.

Section 2. The National Council shall advance the interests of the Alliance in all possible ways,—by the distribution of literature, public meetings, receptions, dramatic and other entertainments, and by promoting the formation of Chapters. The National Council may elect agents or representatives, members of the Alliance, when conditions

are deemed propitious for such action, to extend the work of the organization in new districts, or develop it where it is already started—in the latter case, acting in harmony with the Chapter nearest the proposed field of labor. Title and duties appertaining thereto, shall be prescribed by the National Council. Assistance in providing for such aggressive work may be asked of the several Chapters.

Section 3. The Standing Committees of the National Council shall be those of Ways and Means, Chapters, Publication, and Chaplains; the Chairman of the Committee of Chaplains shall be, by virtue of such office, known as General Dean of the Chaplains. The election and appointment of members of these Committees shall devolve upon the National Council, as prescribed in Article 7, Section 4.

Section 4. The National Council shall meet monthly, or more frequently, as they may decide.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the National Council, not later than its second Regular Meeting after the occurrence of a vacancy in any of its offices, to fill such vacancy by ballot and a majority vote, except that vacancies in Chapter Representatives must be filled by vote of the Chapter represented.

Section 6. Should an officer or member of the

National Council fail to attend three successive meetings of the National Council without sending a good and valid excuse for such absence, the place of said officer or member on the National Council shall be declared vacant, the vacancy to be filled in accordance with Article 6, Section 5.

Section 7. At the April meeting each year of the National Council, there shall be appointed a Committee on Credentials of Delegates to the next ensuing meeting of the General Convention, consisting of three members, who shall report to the Convention in accordance with Article 5, Section 2.

Section 8. Order of Business for the National Council Meetings :—

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Prayer.
3. Roll Call.
4. Reading of the Minutes.
5. Report of Secretary.
6. Report of Treasurer.
7. Report of Chaplains Committee.
8. Report of Ways and Means Committee.
9. Report of Chapters Committee.
10. Report of Publication Committee.
11. Report of Special Committees.
12. Appropriations.
13. Unfinished Business.
14. New Business.

ARTICLE VII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. The President shall preside at the General Convention, and at the meetings of the National Council. The President shall also be the Executive Head of the Alliance.

The First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President, in the temporary absence of that officer, and in the event of the death of the President, the First Vice-President shall temporarily fill that office until the National Council shall have elected a President.

In the absence of both the President and First Vice-President, the duties shall devolve upon the Second Vice-President. In the temporary absence of all three, a temporary Chairman shall be chosen by the Council.

Section 2. The Secretary shall be present at all meetings of the National Council, and of the General Convention, keep a record of the minutes of both, and conduct the correspondence of the same. The Secretary shall attend to all the regular business properly belonging to the National Council, open all letters addressed to Headquarters for National Council officials, and promptly forward to the several officers those which require their personal attention. The Secretary shall make a written report monthly to the

National Council, and annually to the General Convention. The Secretary shall be, ex-officio, a member of all Committees of the National Council. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the National Council, at the earliest practicable moment after each meeting of the National Council, to send a copy of the minutes of each meeting to the Secretary of every Chapter in good standing.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all moneys received from any source, and pay all bills after they have been certified by the Presiding Officer of the Meeting of the National Council at which such bills were approved. He shall present monthly reports to the National Council, and an annual report to the General Convention. For the convenience of deposit, he shall keep his official account in a bank approved by the National Council, located in the vicinity of the Alliance headquarters.

Section 4. The Ways and Means, Chaplains, Chapters, and Publication Committees shall each consist of a Chairman and two members of the National Council, with additional members from the Alliance, at the discretion of the Chairman. The National Council shall elect the Chairman, and the Chairman shall appoint the other members of the Committee. The duties to be performed by

these several Committees shall be prescribed by the National Council.

ARTICLE VIII.

REVENUE.

Section 1. The National Council shall receive the sum of Two Dollars (\$2.00) from each Chapter for every charter issued to such body, in accordance with Article 9, Section 1.

Section 2. Each Chapter shall pay to the National Council 25 cents per capita on all members received during the year. Each Chapter shall further assist, so far as its own necessary expenses will permit, in meeting the expenses incident to the work of the National Council, in accordance with Article 6, Section 2.

Section 3. The minimum dues to be charged by each Chapter shall not be less than One Dollar per annum. In every Chapter, only members whose dues are paid to May 1st next preceding the next Annual Convention shall be recognized as "in good standing"; and only such shall be counted in the estimate for Delegates, or be eligible for office or to vote at Annual Meetings, or be Delegates to any Annual Convention.

Section 4. The Annual Meeting of each Chapter shall be held on a day in the first week in May.

Section 5. No Chapter shall be allowed any

more Delegates to the National Convention than they have paid per capita tax for, before May 1st of that year.

ARTICLE IX.

CHAPTERS.

Section 1. Upon the application of twelve or more persons for a Charter as a Chapter, the National Council shall promptly place the matter in the hands of an authorized representative, in accordance with Article 6, Section 2, for examination and report. No Charter shall be issued until such report has been received, and approved by the National Council. Upon favorable decision by the National Council, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to forward the Charter by Registered Mail, collecting a fee of Two Dollars (\$2.00) for the same.

Section 2. The Constitution of each Chapter shall be that enacted by the General Convention of The Actors' Church Alliance ; but each Chapter shall be at liberty to make its own By-Laws adapted to local circumstances, provided such By-Laws are not at variance with constitutional requirements.

Section 3. Each Chapter, upon the adoption of its By-Laws, shall promptly send a copy of same to the National Council, and duly report to that body any change thereafter made in said By-Laws.

Section 4. Each Chapter, before the first Friday of each month, shall send a report to the National Council, of its financial condition and the number of members not in arrears for dues. Members of any Chapter who are in arrears for more than one year's dues, shall, upon one month's notice, be dropped from the rolls, but upon payment of the amount of the arrears, may be restored to membership by vote of the Chapter Board of Directors. No member in arrears for dues shall be eligible for election as a Delegate to the General Convention.

Section 5. The Officers of each Chapter shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Secretaries, and Treasurer, and such Directors as the Chapter may deem expedient, an equal number from the Church and Stage, to be elected at the Annual Meeting of each Chapter ; and this body of officers shall be known as the local Council.

ARTICLE X.

CHAPLAINS.

Section 1. Recommendations for the position of Chaplain shall be reported monthly by the Dean of the Chaplains to the National Council, for approval ; and the National Council shall issue certificates of appointment to the Chaplains immediately upon approval of petitions in their behalf.

Section 2. The Chaplains of a locality may organize themselves into a Board, and elect one of their number as Local Dean. The Board shall meet as often as they deem necessary, for conference respecting their work, such as the holding of religious services, visitation of sick or needy Alliance members, and any undertakings they may consider expedient for advancing the interest of the Alliance.

Section 3. Where no Board of Chaplains has been formed, Chaplains will consult with the General Dean.

Section 4. Each Chaplain shall present to the General Dean, on or before April 10th, an Annual Report of his Alliance work.

Section 5. Any Chapter may recommend to the General Dean, ministers of Religious Bodies to serve as Chaplains of the Alliance in the city, town or district in which the Chapter is situated.

Section 6. Each Chaplain shall be a member of the Chapter nearest his place of residence.

ARTICLE XI.

RIGHTS OF MEMBERS, PRIVILEGES, ETC.

Section 1. Where no Chapter has been formed, and no preference of a Chapter is indicated by the applicant, persons applying for membership in the Alliance, if qualified, shall be received into the

Chapter nearest to that place ; but when a Chapter is formed in the vicinity of such applicant's residence, his membership shall be transferred to said Chapter.

Section 2. Any member desiring to change his Chapter membership, provided he is not in arrears for dues, shall be entitled to receive a Letter of Transfer from the Secretary of the Chapter he is leaving, certifying to his good standing therein, and his name shall be eliminated from the roster of the Chapter issuing such Letter of Transfer, upon receipt of notice of his acceptance by the Chapter with which he has affiliated.

Section 3. Members visiting a Chapter shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership in said Chapter, except that of voting, or a voice in discussing subjects considered at a business meeting ; the latter privilege however, may be extended by unanimous consent of the Chapter members present at such meeting.

Section 4. No person shall be eligible as Delegate to the General Convention or as Chapter Representative to the National Council from more than one Chapter.

ARTICLE XII.

BADGES AND MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

Section 1. The National Council alone shall

provide Badges and Membership Cards, which shall be sold to Chapters at cost.

Section 2. The design of the Badges shall be that hereto annexed, and no change shall be made in said design except by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates present at a General Convention, after due notice of same has been given at the preceding Convention.



Section 3. The form of Membership Card shall correspond to that printed hereon, and no change shall be made therein except by a two-thirds vote of the Delegates present at a General Convention, due notice of such proposed change having been given the preceding Convention.

CHAPTER
President

THE ACTORS' CHURCH ALLIANCE OF AMERICA.

This is to certify that.....
..... is a Member
of the..... Chapter
in good standing to May 1st,.....

..... Secretary.

Present this at all Receptions and Business Meetings.

Dues Payable May 1.
Members in Arrears are liable to be dropped after one month's notice.

ARTICLE XIII.

ELECTIONS.

Section 1. All elections shall be by ballot, and a majority shall be necessary to elect, except in cases where there is but one candidate nominated for the office, in which event the presiding officer may declare the candidate elected by consent. In case no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, where there are more than two candidates for the office, the balloting shall continue until one of them obtains such majority; but the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be withdrawn at each unsuccessful ballot, and no vote shall be regarded as part of the poll unless it be for a previously nominated candidate.

ARTICLE XIV.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Section 1. An Auditing Committee shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the General Convention, consisting of three members of the Alliance, whose duty it will be to examine the accounts of the Treasurer for the ensuing year. A written report of their examination, signed by at least two members of said Committee, shall accompany the annual report of the Treasurer, as specified in Article 7, Section 3.

Section 2. The offices of the National Council shall be located in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York.

Section 3. Cushing's Manual shall govern Parliamentary procedure in the several bodies of the Alliance, when it does not conflict with any previously established law or rule enacted by the General Convention.

Section 4. This Constitution and these Laws may be altered or amended at any Annual Meeting of the General Convention, provided a notice of such proposed change is sent to the Secretary at least one month in advance of said General Convention ; and the Secretary shall thereupon duly certify same to the Secretary of each Chapter. A three-fourths vote of the Delegates present at the General Convention, shall be necessary to make such amendment effective.

Section 5. This Constitution and these Laws shall supercede all previous Constitutions and Laws of the Alliance, and take effect immediately upon its adoption by the General Convention.



GAYLORD BROS.

MAKERS

SYRACUSE - N.Y.

Pat. Jan. 21, 1908

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